



January 2015

The Bay Leaf

California Native Plant Society • East Bay Chapter
Alameda & Contra Costa Counties

www.ebcnps.org

www.groups.google.com/group/ebcnps

MEMBERS' MEETING

The West: A Closer Look

Speaker: Ted Kipping

Wednesday, January 28, 7:30 pm

Location: Garden Room, Orinda Public Library (directions below)

At our first-ever members' photo night last January, photographer extraordinaire Ted Kipping gave up his time slot in our tight schedule so others could show their photos. So this January, we're devoting a full meeting to Ted's gorgeous images. Ted has set a selection of his California plant and landscape (and more!) photos to music, and through those images he'll take us on a pictorially comprehensive trip around the state. Be prepared to be overwhelmed by beauty! (Some of Ted's photos shown below.)

Ted Kipping is a Life Member of CNPS and many other botanical, horticultural, and natural history groups. He studied natural history at Columbia University in New York City, worked at the Botanical Garden in Golden Gate Park, and 38 years ago started his own arboriculture firm, Tree Shapers, LLC, serving the Bay Area. Ted has travelled all over the West as well as to wild places in many other parts of the world. His photography has been extensively published.

East Bay CNPS membership meetings are free of charge and open to everyone. This month's meeting takes place in the Garden Room of the Orinda Public Library at 24 Orinda Way (in Orinda Village). The Garden Room is on the second floor of the building, accessible by stairs or an elevator. The Garden Room opens at 7 pm; the meeting begins at 7:30 pm. Email sr0433@yahoo.com or call 510-496-6016 if you have questions.



Directions to Orinda Public Library at 24 Orinda Way:

From the west, take Hwy 24 to the Orinda/Moraga exit. At the end of the off ramp, turn left on Camino Pablo (toward Orinda Village), right on Santa Maria Way (the signal after the BART station and freeway entrance), and left on Orinda Way.

From the east, take Hwy 24 to the Orinda exit. Follow the ramp to Orinda Village. Turn right on Santa Maria way (the first signal) and left on Orinda Way. Once on Orinda Way, go 1 short block to the parking lot on the southeast side of the two-story building on your right. There is additional free parking beneath the building as well as on the street.

From BART (4 blocks): Exit the Orinda station, turn right and cross a pedestrian bridge, then cross a second pedestrian bridge on the left. Go 1 short block on the sidewalk to the third pedestrian bridge. Go 2 blocks on Orinda Way to the Orinda Library.

Next meeting: February 25, 7:30 pm

Josie Iselin: An Ocean Garden: The Secret Life of Seaweed (Garden Room, Orinda Public Library)

NATIVE HERE

Changes at the Nursery

This winter you will be noticing some changes to the nursery's organization and tree cover. One major issue facing the future success of growing our plants is the amount of shade that is produced by the trees at Native Here Nursery. Many of you will remember the major revision in tree canopy with the removal of several mature Monterey pines about five years ago. What were once saplings have now shot up tremendously with the new resources available to them—mainly sun. In another five years I would expect our oaks to coalesce into a continuous canopy that would limit our available growing light and provide poor conditions for many of our sun-loving species. We have so far removed several bay laurels, the Italian alder (sorry, Margot), and two coast live oaks. The remaining oaks will be carefully thinned to provide higher filtered light. We love our trees, but we also have a mission to grow healthy plants from all over our East Bay region.

The other changes are becoming even more noticeable. Both the mission and character of the nursery is focused around locally native plants, and planting them back out in their appropriate locations. A large part of selecting site-appropriate material is to select from genetically local sources. Several nursery volunteers, and many of our customers, have encouraged us to re-arrange the nursery by species in order to facilitate both appropriate growing conditions and an easier customer and seller experience. In addition to removing our uniqueness among the native plant nursery community, a system which disregards location (genetic and ecotype) would ruin the mission of the nursery, and likely the character as well. I have settled on a different and also imperfect solution to re-organize the nursery stock by species within larger ecological regions as described by Ertter's *Annotated Checklist of the East Bay Flora* (Bay Hills, Flatlands, Valley, Diablo, etc.). We will continue to encourage customers to buy material as close to their site as possible and will keep all of the specific location

information attached to each individual plant. I believe that this will strike a balance between serving our customers and the species and natural communities that comprise "the environment." I hope that this new system will provide a more complete view of what grows natively in each area of our county, as it is difficult to keep complete stock available from each collection location. Furthermore, this will help us better provide the appropriate amounts of water, sunlight, and loving care needed for each species, since we will have a larger area from which to choose the micro-habitat within the nursery for each species.

Volunteer Corner

We have had the pleasure of seeing many of our less frequent volunteers helping out at workdays this year. Not only are these workdays critical to completing larger projects, they also fill me and the nursery with energy and a sense of community. It is no doubt also inspiring for our regular volunteers to see that others who cannot make it as often love the nursery.

With the early/normal start to the rain this fall, our section tenders have not needed to water. With the rain and holidays has also come a general decrease in volunteer turnout. I would like to specially thank Charli for moving a large portion of the seed sowing operation to her residence, which has provided both protection from rain and space for pots, which have been hard to come by during the nursery re-arrangement.

Please consider joining us this Sunday, January 4th, for another stock re-arrangement workday. It will be held from 10 am to 2 pm at Native Here Nursery, 101 Golf Course Drive. There will be light refreshments available, as well as plenty of work: sprucing, lifting, hauling, raking, and singing.

Theo Fitanides

Manager, Native Here Nursery



KNOWLAND PARK UPDATE

Previously, Oakland Zoo executives asked the Oakland City Council to grant a conservation easement in Knowland Park. Zoo executives plan to build a zoo expansion on top of the habitat of a threatened species (the Alameda whipsnake) and two rare plant communities. State and federal wildlife agencies determined that the development will cause serious and permanent habitat destruction, and so they are requiring an enormous amount of mitigation (53 acres). Easement land will be closed to the public forever.

On December 10th, the Oakland City Council gave final approval to the easement at the second reading of the ordinance, with a vote of 5-2. Council members Dan Kalb and Rebecca Kaplan voted "no."

The Friends of Knowland Park considered their options and surveyed their members before deciding to proceed with a referendum to put the ordinance to a vote of the public. FOKP secured a resolution of support for the referendum from the California Native Plant Society, East Bay Chapter and the Sierra Club, San Francisco Bay Chapter.

FOKP announced the referendum drive at a press conference on the steps of City Hall on December 16th. Volunteers

have been actively collecting signatures and recruiting new signature gatherers, but they need our help.

Getting the referendum on the ballot will require collecting more than 20,000 signatures of registered Oakland voters by January 9th, a huge challenge. FOKP has been told by consultants that the referendum drive will need the help of paid signature gatherers, in addition to volunteers, to succeed.

Controversy over the decision to give away more parkland seems to have galvanized the public. "We've had so many people calling to ask how they can help," said Beth Wurzburg. "This referendum will send a message to the City that they can't give away our public parkland without the consent of the people of Oakland."

If you can help collect signatures or want to sign the petition, please write to knowlandreferendum@gmail.com. If you can donate money, please go to the FOKP website <http://www.saveknowland.org/donate-to-the-referendum-effort/>. Contributions are not tax-deductible. And please tell your friends and colleagues in Oakland about the petition drive.

The Knowland Park Team



Above and on the previous page: volunteers at Native Here Nursery. Photos by Janice Bray.

CONSERVATION ANALYST APPEAL

We urge all lovers of our local native plants and their habitats to keep our Conservation Analyst, Mack Casterman, on our team. (The photo by Delia Taylor shows Mack at Knowland Park.) We need \$18,745 more to support his half-time position in 2015. He will be needed to assist in all of our conservation efforts, including evaluating and responding to the Draft Environmental Impact Report which will be released soon for the Tesla area in East Contra Costa County. Tesla is threatened with a massive off-road vehicle park.

\$21,255 has been raised so far. Our goal is \$40,000. We depend on our members and friends to donate generously to the fund. It is easy to donate using PayPal on the Chapter website (www.ebcnps.org) or you may write a check to CNPS, P.O. Box 5597, Elmwood Station, Berkeley CA 94705.

All contributions are tax-deductible. Thank you! And many thanks to the donors to the 2015 conservation analyst fund listed below.

Delia Taylor

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Lisa Anich
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CONSERVATION ANALYST REPORT

Conservation Conference

The 2015 CNPS Conservation Conference is coming up in a few weeks. Join over 1,000 conservation and native plant enthusiasts in San Jose! Attendees include scientists, conservationists, CNPS chapters, university professors and students, policymakers, professional and amateur botanists, landscaping professionals, and land-use planners from California and beyond. The Conference will take place on January 15th, 16th and 17th and there are pre-conference workshops and field trips occurring on January 13th and 14th. Visit the conference website for more information and to register to attend: <http://www.cnps.org/cnps/conservation/conference/2015/>. This event only happens once every three years, and with the location so close to our chapter area it is one not to miss!

Tesla Park Update

We recently received word from the planners for the Carnegie State Vehicular Recreation Area (SVRA) General Plan that the

draft Environmental Impact Report for the proposed expansion of Carnegie SVRA has been delayed and will not be out in fall 2014 as originally scheduled. We are now expecting the plan in early 2015 and we are using the extra time to make sure that our coalition is as prepared as possible to provide informed comments in favor of protecting Tesla Park. Stay tuned for more updates.

Volunteering: The Conservation Committee is always looking for new volunteers to get involved in our many projects. If you are interested in working with me on any of the projects that you have read about on our blog or in past Conservation Analyst Updates, please feel free to contact me by phone at (510) 734-0335 or by email at conservation@ebcnps.org. And as always, for more detailed updates on all of our conservation projects please visit the Conservation Blog at <http://ebcnps.wordpress.com/>



Vista of Tesla Park.
Photo by Delia Taylor.

FIELD TRIP JANUARY 2015

Sunday, January 4, 2:00 pm, Field trip to Huddart County Park to see Fetid Adder's Tongue

Location: Huddart County Park, 1100 Kings Mountain Road, Woodside (San Mateo County). Meet in the parking lot just past the pay station. David Margolies (510-393-1858 cell, divaricatum@gmail.com) will lead a hike on the Crystal Springs Trail where fetid adder's tongue (*Scoliopus bigelovii*, Liliaceae) usually blooms in early January. (In most locations outside

botanical gardens, it blooms in late January or early February. We have seen it here every year except 2013.) This is a gentle trail, losing about 200 feet over about 1/2 mile to the creek. We will walk to the creek and then return the same way. It is unlikely that there will be any other flowers out this early, but the fetid adder's tongue's presence tells us that the new flower season has started. (Other plants out of flower will also be identified.) The area is second growth redwood and mixed evergreen forest.

POINT ISABEL RESTORATION IN DECEMBER

Rain. It is life giving, life sustaining. It's still raining today as we write (December 19) and we have yet to hear a single complaint from neighbors, friends, and colleagues. "We can use it" is a frequent refrain. At Pt. Isabel, the rain has the additional impact of awakening the remaining seeds of the recently removed radish, thistle, and oat grass that then very quickly begin to extract the moisture from the soil that is needed by the native plants we have been so carefully cultivating. These invasive plants grow so rapidly (you can also most see them racing to maturity in front of your eyes) that they shade out the tiny starts of poppies, phacelia, lizardtail, sagebrush and native bunchgrasses.

Nevertheless, we welcome all the rain and at the same time encourage you and your contacts to join us on the 1st and 3rd Saturdays to pluck the growing invasive plants before they get far enough along that they go to seed and renew the cycle.

At our two work parties in December we continued removing weeds from the newly cleared stretches of trail and started our Fall/Winter planting. John put in 6 yarrows (*Achillea millefolium*) and 7 lippia (*Phyla nodiflora*), Nina planted 3 great salt bushes (*Atriplex lentiformis*), Nathan and colleagues planted 3

lippia (*Phyla nodiflora*) and Margot went to town by planting 2 Suisun marsh aster (*Symphyotrichum lentum*), 1 American brooklime (*Veronica americana*), 2 checker mallows (*Sidalcea malviflora*), 3 deerbed sedges (*Carex praegracilis*), 6 marsh baccharis (*Baccharis glutinosa*), 1 California fuchsia (*Epilobium canum*), 2 more Bigelow's sneezeweed (*Helenium bigelovii*), and 10 lippia (*Phyla nodiflora*) grown from Pt. Isabel seed). Margot also scattered some Pt. Richmond/Pt. Molate *Clarkia rubicunda* seed (ruby chalice clarkia).

Part of the trail within our site may be chosen for an Eagle Scout project early next year. In anticipation, scout Jason and his parents Bo and Jing joined our work party on December 20 to review the site, and get trained by Tom in safety procedures. The three of them also did a fantastic job removing Himalayan blackberry and fennel.

The tide was high on December 20 and bird life was abundant. Next King Tides occur in mid-January (January 19-21) so plan to come out an see Hoffman Marsh be transformed into Hoffman Lake!

Jane and Tom Kelly



Manish weeding, ducks at high tide, John planting yarrow, and the December 6 team. Photos from Point Isabel by Jane Kelley.

RESTORATION SCHEDULE

Saturday, January 3, 9:00 am, Redwood Regional Park – broom bash

Meet at Canyon Meadows picnic area to pick up tools, water and snacks and then head uphill to pull broom on East Ridge trail. Work until 1 pm, although early departures are OK.

Saturday, January 3, 9:30 am, Pt. Isabel restoration at Eastshore State Park

Meet at the Eastshore State Park lot at the end of Rydin Road next to Hoffman Marsh. We remove invasive plants and revegetate with natives grown from plants found at the site.

Garber Park Stewards

Please join us for our Habitat Restoration Workdays, **Tuesday, January 6 and Saturday, January 17.** We will return to pulling out the invasive weeds that are popping up in our restoration sites. It's also the time to do some trail maintenance—shoring up the trails and improving drainage. **On Saturday, January 24, Lech will be leading Winter Restoration Workshop on Passive Restoration along the riparian corridor of Harwood Creek.** Click on the following link to download a flyer of the Workshop Series. http://garberparkstewards.blogspot.com/2014_11_23_archive.html

Saturday, January 10, 9:30 a.m. Huckleberry Regional Park

Meet at the parking lot, where we will decide on the worksite of the day, depending on weather and soil conditions. You can borrow gloves and tools from park staff if you need to. We'll work until 1 pm. However, if there are enough volunteers we will add on a short field trip to see the earliest manzanitas in bloom, and maybe some bryophytes.

Sunday, January 18, 9:00 am, Sibley Regional Park

Join us for an early day of service pulling French broom and other weeds. Recently 2-foot high sprouts practically slid out of the ground when we pulled on them—we can hope for the

same in January. An added bonus—there is now water flowing in the creek. You can join us at the toolbox worksite from either parking lot. The hike in is shorter from the Old Tunnel Road staging area, but you should stop at the Skyline parking lot (Oakland side) if you need loaner gloves or tools.

Saturday, January 10, 9:30 am - 12:00 pm, The El Sobrante Library, 4191 Appian Way

Join SPAWNERS as we pull invasive weeds, clean up trash and install native plants at our streamside restoration project at the El Sobrante Library. All ages welcome. Children must be accompanied by an adult. No training necessary. Please wear sturdy shoes, comfortable work clothes, and bring a water bottle. SPAWNERS will provide tools, gloves, and snacks. RSVP to Martha at 510-788-0897 or courtney@thewatershed-project.org if bringing a group of 4 people or more.

Wednesday, February 4, 7:00 - 9:00 pm, Public Meeting: Learn to identify animal tracks

El Sobrante Library Community Meeting Room, 4191 Appian Way

Have you ever been on a hike and gotten the feeling that you're being watched? Then only moments later, you hear the crashing of vegetation as something hurriedly moves away from you? What was it... a cow, a deer, a mountain lion!!? Wouldn't you like to know what was hiding just out of sight? Then join SPAWNERS at our upcoming public meeting where EBMUD biologist Jonathan Price will teach audience members how to identify animal tracks from a variety of local wildlife. Winter is a wonderful time to learn about animal prints because the wet ground allows us to more clearly identify tracks. Tracking animals is also a fun and interesting way to spend time outdoors, embracing the rainier winter weather. We hope to see you there!

BECOME A REGIONAL PARKS BOTANIC GARDEN DOCENT

You can help the Regional Parks Botanic Garden share our state's rich native plant heritage by becoming a garden docent. As a volunteer educator, you'll help young students and other garden visitors understand and appreciate California plant life in this exceptional all-native garden in the Berkeley hills. No prior experience or knowledge is necessary, but the class is limited to those who will lead tours in the garden, either on weekdays for groups or for the general public on weekends.

Docent training covers a broad array of topics, including basic botany and plant identification, plant geography, ethnobotany, and teaching techniques, and prepares docents to lead tours of the garden. Each session features a lecture followed by a walk in the garden. The primary instructor is Dr. Glenn Keator, a respected botanist, educator, and author of a number of books on native plants.

Being a docent has many benefits, including classes and field trips as well sharing a child's joy of discovery or enriching a visitor's experience of the garden.

WHEN: Tuesdays, January–June 16, 2015 9 a.m.–12:30 pm
WHERE: Regional Parks Botanic Garden Wildcat Canyon Road at South Park Drive Tilden Regional Park, in the Berkeley hills

COST: \$200 for the training course, text, and a one-year membership in the Friends of the Regional Parks Botanic Garden

REGISTRATION / MORE INFORMATION: Contact the garden staff bgarden@ebparks.org / 510-544-3169

Docent training is limited to 15 participants; register soon to be sure of a space.

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EBCNPS Sponsored Activities

East Bay Chapter News list Emailed announcements of upcoming EBCNPS events

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Native Here Nursery

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Manager--Theo Fitanides
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Native Here inventory specialist
Adam Huggins

Plant Fair

vacant

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Huckleberry Regional Preserve

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Point Isabel

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Walnut Creek

Lesley Hunt, leader
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Membership Application and Renewal Form

Name _____

Address _____

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Email _____

I wish to affiliate with:

___ East Bay Chapter (Alameda and Contra Costa Counties)

___ Other _____

Mail application and check to: California Native Plant Society, 2707 K Street, Suite 1,
Sacramento CA 95816

Membership category:

- ___ Individual, \$45
- ___ Family, Library, Group or International, \$75
- ___ Plant lover, \$100
- ___ Patron, \$300
- ___ Benefactor, \$600
- ___ Mariposa Lily, \$1500
- ___ Limited Income or student, \$25.00
- ___ Other _____